

**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 25, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 24, 2006.

**RESTRICTION:**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand restricted under 35 U.S.C. §121. The Examiner has required restriction of claims 1-20 of the present application to the following Groups:

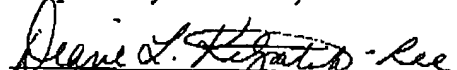
Group I, including claims 1-16, is drawn to a process for devolatilizing a polymer, classified in class 159, subclass 47.1.

Group II, including claims 17-20, is drawn to a plate heat exchanger element and process thereof, classified in class 165, subclass 164.

To facilitate the prosecution of this application, Applicants hereby elect claims 1-16, identified as Group I, with traverse and reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected Group II claims.

It is believed that an action on the merits is in order and such is respectfully requested. Please debit or credit Deposit Account No. 03-3345 accordingly for any additional fees or overcharges as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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